(d) and (e): As per the Coast Guard charter, in operational matters, the CG ships and aircraft operate as a 'Team'. On completion of a successful mission, the entire ship is given due recognition. In the case of seizure of contraband, monetary awards are given as per the policy laid down by the Customs & Excise Department. The President's Tatrakshak Medal, Tatrakshak Medal and Commendations are awarded in recongition of general meritorious performance in the Coast Guard. The President's Tatrakshak Medal has been awarded to 6 officers and Tatrakshak Medal to 11 officers of the Coast Guard.

Utilisation of Defence Land

3044. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1005 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th November, 1992 and state:

(a) what is the total area of defence land under Municipal Jurisdiction, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that these isolated patches of land have not been used since independence and there are remote possibilities of these patches of defence land being put to use in future; and

(c) whether Government propose to utilise such land for civil use and raise resources for defence requirement and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c): Instructions have been issued to concerned Defence authorities to maintain Municipal Authority-wise records of Defence lands in States/U.Ts. Based on the reports received, the position will be laid on the Table of the House.

Some isolated pockets of Defence land are presently not being put to use. As a means to generate additional resources, the Government are examining issues relating to the disposal of lands rendered surplus to Defence requirements, including the option of putting such sites to auction.

Obtaining MIG-29 from Russia

3045. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been reached to obtain a squadron of MIG-29 aircrafts from Russia;

(b) if so, what are the details of the terms indicating therein the cost involved; and

(c) by when the squadron is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a): No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Supply of Products through Military Canteen

3046. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria for supply and purchase of defence materials equipments and consumer products for military canteens;

(b) whether voluntary social organisations and women-cooperative societies can supply their products to defence Canteens, if so, whether there is

any special scheme to encourage these organisations; and

(c) whether any registration is required with defence officials in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR):

(a) to (c): Unit Run Canteens (URCs) are retail outlets for the sale of consumer products (mainly articles for daily household requirements) to Defence personnel, ex-Servicemen and other specially authorised categories, at prices lower than the prevailing market prices.

the U.R.C.'s are owned and controlled by the Units themselves, and run under their private Regimental arrangements. The U.R.C's do not deal in any defence materials.

The U.R.C's make their purchases from the Canteen Stores Department (C.S.D.), under the Ministry of Defence, which, in turn, makes bulk purchases from manufacturers and wholesellers, to service the U.R.Cs. In making its purchases, the C.S.D. follows an elaborate criteria prescribed by its Board of Administration, which takes into account a multiplicity of factors, e.g., consumer preference, product/brand performance in the civil market, the number of years for which the product has been selling in the civil market, the infrastructure for after-sales service provided by the manufacturer, the price of the product and the extent to which a production already stands covered in the C.S.D. range.

Any organisation, including voluntary social organisations and womens co-operative societies, which satisfies the laid down criteria, is free to supply its product(s) to the Canteen Stores Department. Other things being equal, products of voluntary social organisations, Co-operative Societies, and Ex-Servicemen's enterprises etc. are given positive consideration. All organisations intending to supply products to the C.S.D. have to be registered with it. Application forms, for purposes of registration, can be obtained from the General Manager, C.S.D., Bombay. Aplications are screened by a Committee of C.S.D. officers, specially constituted for the pupose, and considered for acceptance of rejection by the Board of Administration of the C.S.D.

Country's Current Defence Expenditure

3047. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's current defence expenditure is 3.8 percent of GNP, if so, the comparative figures of the percentage in neighbouring countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the ratio of population and army jawans is the lowest in the country as compared to other neighbouring countries, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a constant threat to the security of the country; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to meet the threat?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b): According to the Quick Estimates of GNP (which are available upto the year 1990-91) India's Defence expenditure for 1990-91 constituted approximately 3% of GNP. As compared to the expenditure incurred by India, that of China and Pakistan, according to the published literature, is higher, that of Pakistan being 7% of GNP for the year 1991. Published literature also indicates that India's ratio of Army jawans to the overall population is lower than that of both Pakistan and China.

(c) and (d): The Government constantly monitor the country's security environment and take all appropriate measures to effectively counter any threat to the nation's security.